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Editorial

Militant resistance to militarization in Mindoro

An intensive military operation is now being undertaken by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Paluan, a small town in Occidental Mindoro. Despite the impending resumption of peace negotiations, the Arroyo regime and the AFP have placed the area under martial law.

The people have shown extraordinary militancy in the face of the AFP's intense terrorism in Occidental Mindoro. With utmost courage, they have stood up for their human rights, opposed AFP repression and employed all means to expose the military violence being unleashed in the area.

In the face of the threats hurled, hin-

drances set up and fascism unleashed by the military, KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog firmly persisted in supporting the barriofolk and in investigating, exposing and mitigating the abuses and violence being inflicted upon them by the military.

The Mangyans established close relations with and enthusiastically welcomed KARAPATAN-ST in order to disclose the truth about the military abuses being perpetrated and coordinate with the human rights group to break free from their confinement in the hellish place that their communities had become in the hands of the military.

The Mangyans moved from one evacuation area to another because the military would not stop harassing them. They traversed the more difficult, longer and more intricate trails due to the military's threats and the road blocks it put up.

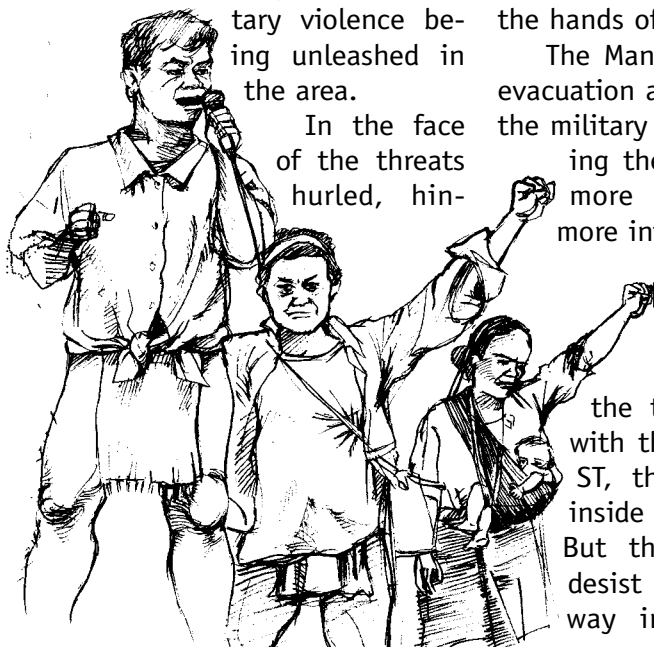
When they reached the town center of Paluan with the help of KARAPATAN-ST, they were given refuge inside the Catholic church. But the military would not desist and tried to force its way in to interrogate the

evacuees, terrorize them and forcibly use them as guides for the AFP's military operations.

But they firmly opposed and refused the military's demands. Failing to intimidate the evacuees and out of extreme embarrassment, the military concocted a story for the media claiming that "the Mangyans were being detained by communists."

Paluan merely mirrors the intense brutality and deception attendant to the counterrevolutionary war being launched by the Arroyo regime nationwide. But more than this, Paluan is also a mirror of struggle. The fascist military is in a daze in the face of the people's steadfast stand and resolute struggle. It is the same steadfastness and resoluteness shown elsewhere in the country by an oppressed and exploited people who have grasped the truth and are now taking a stand. It also sharply illustrates the grave inutility of the regime and the entire ruling system to suppress the people and the revolutionary movement.

To resist the militarization of the island, the New People's Army launched a tactical offensive against the 19th Special Forces Coy in Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro on



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January 25. The Party has called on the NPA in various parts of the country to intensify tactical offensives against the government armed forces to take advantage of the overconcentration of fascist forces in certain areas like Mindoro and to make the AFP pay dearly for its intense abuse of human rights.

Meanwhile, the Party calls on the Arroyo government to put an immediate stop to intense militarization and to order the AFP to desist in its abuse of the people in Paluan and the towns of Abra de Ilog and Mamburao. This would greatly help the resumption of the formal peace talks. The Party also calls on the Arroyo government to cooperate with the National Democratic Front in hastening the formation of the Joint Monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and hear and investigate complaints on human rights violations. AB



Intensified militarization and human rights violations

The regime has concentrated a large number of fascist troops and heavy weapons in Paluan and its border with Abra de Ilog and Mamburao towns as part of AFP operations to pursue the NPA. They believed that numerous NPA troops were encamped in the area, but were unable to find them. In their failure to find the Red fighters, the fascist troops have directed their desperation and violence on the Mangyan natives living in the area.

Over 2,000 military troops from the Philippine Army, Navy and Air Force have reportedly descended on the area. Five helicopter gunships, three spy planes, five howitzers and two tanks have been positioned and two Philippine Navy vessels now patrol the nearby shore. AFP Southern Luzon Unified Command Public Information Officer Maj. Jose Broso threatened incessant attacks on Mindoro until "it is completely freed from communist terrorist control."

The operation has been unrestrained in its violation of human rights. Most affected are residents of Sitios Aglimasan and Talahib in Barangay Harrison, Paluan where the AFP first unleashed its fascist terror. There is a long list of wanton destruction and burning of houses, theft of property, strafing, harassment, beatings and manhandling.

At least seven civilians were abducted by elements of the 16th IB. Three of them have not surfaced until now. The soldiers threatened, intimidated, shamed and tortured Mangyan natives. The women were molested.

The Mangyan natives evacuated to avoid military repression and abuse. But the military hounded and threatened them all the way to their evacuation areas in the barrio centers and neighboring villages.

Forbidden to go any further, the military blocked all roads from their evacuation sites. Together with 500 other residents from neighboring barrios, residents of Barangay Harrison passed through long and hidden trails towards the Paluan town center.

Several times, the military denied the human rights organizations entry into Occidental Mindoro. The groups were only able to enter through their members' sheer tenacity and courage. But even they were not spared from AFP abuse. On January 22, men in bonnets blocked the nine-member team of KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog two kilometers from a 16th IB checkpoint, seizing their belongings and documentation on human rights violations in Paluan and neighboring towns. The two men in the team were struck with butts of Armalite rifles. AB



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Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:

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Greetings on the 35th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines

Various communist parties from different corners of the world sent their warmest greetings to the Communist Party of the Philippines on the occasion of its 35th anniversary on December 26, 2003. No matter that they used different languages. All of the messages conveyed proletarian revolutionary solidarity with the CPP and saluted its victorious leadership of the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle.

Those who sent messages to the CPP belong to the broad global network of fellow proletarians and comrades in the struggle of the Filipino communists and people. They are in solidarity with, support and constantly monitor the advance and victories of the national-democratic revolutionary movement with a socialist perspective in the Philippines.

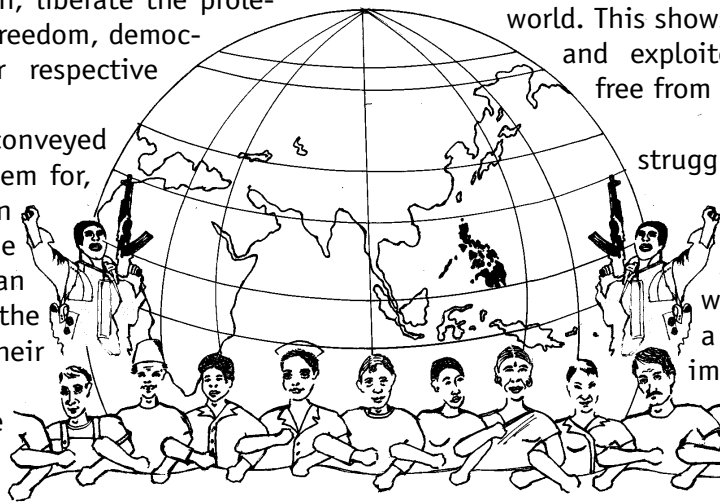
Whether they hail from capitalist countries or from semicolonial and semifeudal countries, these parties and organizations tread the revolutionary path to vanquish imperialism and reaction, liberate the proletariat and people and realize freedom, democracy and socialism in their respective countries and in the world.

In their messages, they conveyed their recognition of, and esteem for, the revolutionary movement in the Philippines led by the Party. For them, it serves as an inspiration and beacon to the revolutionary struggle of their respective countries. They recognized the victory of the Party's Second Great Recti-

fication Movement in the Philippines and the advances it has produced in Party-building and in revolutionary action. They admired the perseverance and triumph of the Party and the revolutionary movement in the Philippines in the face of intense repression by imperialism and reaction in the name of anti-terrorism.

They share the experiences and advance of the revolutionary movement among the people of the countries that they live and work in. In relating with the CPP, they also share their experiences in the various arenas of struggle to likewise inspire the Filipino people. Like the CPP, they also strive to lead the proletariat and the people of their respective countries along the road of class struggle through various forms and means of arduous struggle.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has extensive relations with fellow communists and revolutionary parties and organizations in various parts of the world. This shows that globally, oppressed and exploited people are breaking free from the chains of imperialism and reaction, and are struggling for freedom, democracy and socialism towards communism. They all acknowledge that the world is now on the eve of a resurgence of the anti-imperialist and socialist movement under the leadership of communist parties.



Among those that sent messages are the following:

Partido de la Liberación (PL) de Argentina ■ Partido Comunista Revolucionario de la Argentina ■ Kommunistische Aktion-Marxistisch-Leninistisch (Austria) ■ Socialist Party of Bangladesh o Workers' Party of Bangladesh ■ Workers' Party of Belgium (PTB) ■ Communist Party of Great Britain ■ New Communist Party of Britain ■ Communist Party of Brazil-Red Faction ■ Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) ■ Workers' Communist Party of Denmark (APK) ■ Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany (MLPD) ■ Workers' League for the Restoration of the Communist Party of Germany ■ Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)(New Democracy) ■ Workers' Communist Party of France ■ Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)(Liberation) ■ Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)(People's War) ■ International Leninist Current (ILC) ■ Organization of Iranian People's Fedaii Guerrillas (OIPFG) ■ Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) ■ Partito Comunista Maoista (Italy) ■ Communist Party of Japan (Left) ■ Japan Communist League (JCL) ■ Anti-Imperialist Revolutionary Forum (Nepal) ■ Communist Party of Nepal (UML) ■ GML/Rode Morgen (Netherlands) ■ New Communist Party of The Netherlands (NCPN) ■ Anti-Capitalist Alliance (New Zealand) ■ Workers' Party of New Zealand (WPNZ) ■ Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (Revolutionaries) of Sweden (AKP-ML[r]) ■ Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) ■ Partido Comunista Revolucionario del Uruguay and many others ...

VICTORIOUS TACTICAL OFFENSIVES

In various parts of the country...

Masbate: Red fighters ambushed troops of the Philippine Air Force in Barangay Cabrera, Dimasalang, Masbate on February 3, killing a soldier and wounding 12 other troops.

Cagayan: A platoon of the New People's Army Fortunato Camus Command in western Cagayan staged a successful ambush against a composite group of troops from the 17th IB and CAFGU elements on February 1. Four soldiers and a CAFGU element were killed, while three other soldiers were wounded.

Elements of Bravo Company were on patrol in Sitio Escolta, Barangay Dungan, Rizal town when they were ambushed at around 6 a.m. Two Philippine Air Force helicopters came to their rescue, but failed to encounter the Red fighters.

Catanduanes: An NPA platoon attacked the armory of Gigmoto mayor Armando T. Guerrero on January 20, seizing high caliber firearms. The mayor was wounded in the raid.

According to Theresa Magtanggol, spokesperson of the Eduardo Banaag Command-NPA of Catanduanes, there was no intention to hurt the mayor. But he was adamant and resisted, leaving the NPA no choice but to shoot back to neutralize him.

Mayor Guerrero is a former policeman and his security agency serves as a front for his being a warlord. He uses his agency to intimidate not only his political rivals but, most of all, the people as well. He is also a protector of illegal drug syndicates in Catanduanes. AB

Seething discontent pervades AFP

Another group of reactionary army officers has emerged and publicly declared its harsh criticism of leading government officials and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) high command.

The group "Kawal Pilipino" (Filipino Soldier) unveiled itself on January 26 at a media conference, expressing its intense disgust. The members assailed the use of the mercenary AFP in reactionary politics and its fractiousness arising from its servitude to rival ruling class political factions.

In particular, they exposed Gloria Arroyo's brazen use of AFP troops and resources for her electoral campaign and to monitor and check the movements of her political rivals. They demanded the resignation of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who has been appointed chief campaign officer for Arroyo's candidacy.

Kawal Pilipino's exposé is but the latest in a series of open and clandestine, armed and unarmed expressions of opposition by rank-and-file soldiers and junior officers which are symptomatic of the depth and breadth of discontent and fractiousness within the AFP. All of this merely shows the utter decadence and losing course of the reactionary AFP and government amid the desperate and terminal condition of the ruling political and socio-economic system that they serve.

The government and the AFP high command reacted no differently from the way they did



during previous actions taken by soldiers and junior AFP officers. Instead of seriously addressing the basis of the protests, all the government and AFP leadership could think of was to automatically assail, swiftly suppress and haphazardly prosecute those it had identified and taken into custody, threaten the others, and try to continue deceiving the entire military force and the people.

The regime immediately arrested and charged the five junior officers suspected of leading Kawal Pilipino. They are now facing charges of desecrating the Philippine flag because they wrote the word "Kawal" on it. Three of the five arrested officers were also charged before a military court for alleged violations of military discipline. Also implicated in the case of flag desecration are other political opponents of the regime who associated with, and assisted, Kawal Pilipino. One of them is Council for Philippine Affairs (COPA) secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon, four opposition leaders and a number of retired military officials.

The regime has also been straining to implicate Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Sen. Loren Legarda. The AFP and Malacañang want to make it appear that Kawal Pilipino is merely an instrument of Arroyo's political opponents.

Meanwhile, cases of large-scale corruption continue to be uncovered within the AFP. Reports this January showed that high officials of the Department of Defense and the AFP earn over P100 million monthly from the salaries and allowances of 9,000 "ghost soldiers." Up to 7,000 names listed as regular troops and 2,000 names listed as CAFGU elements were exposed as mere concoctions of the DND and AFP. Apart from this, the officials also embezzled the funds for "Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses" allotted for these "ghost soldiers."

In the face of all these developments, cadres and forces of the Party, New People's Army and the revolutionary movement must seriously address and further develop the conduct of revolutionary work within the ranks of the reactionary military. We must strive to convince the many who are ready and qualified, to defect and join the NPA and the revolutionary movement. Others may coordinate with the revolutionary movement, conduct revolutionary work within the reactionary army, or simply desert the rotten, reactionary and fascist military and be prevented from continuously taking part in the AFP's repression and abuse of the people. AB

Philippine Revolution Web Central

The internet: A new arena for propaganda

Use any computer connected to the internet and type www.philippinerevolution.org or prwc.netfirms.com on the browser. In a matter of moments, a television-like image will appear, featuring the stand, outlook, program, culture, history and other aspects of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Philippine revolution. This is the Philippine Revolution Web Central or PRWC, the central website on the revolutionary struggle in the Philippines.

Through the internet, PRWC serves as a channel through which the propaganda, calls and open publications and documents of the Party, New People's Army and other revolutionary organizations led by the Party can be propagated widely and rapidly throughout the revolution's ranks, to friends, the entire country and the whole world.

The PRWC is an added effort in highlighting and introducing the Party and the Philippine revolution to the broad masses of the people within and outside the country.

It is at present one of the established open channels for rapidly propagating the revolutionary stand among comrades, fellow communists and revolutionary parties and organizations, the mass media, friends and anyone within and outside the country.

Various units and comrades in the Party and revolutionary movement also effectively

utilize the internet as a rapid and efficient communications channel, along with using the appropriate security safeguards.

Initial efforts

The Party and revolutionary movement's vibrant use of the internet began in 1997 with the appearance of the National Democratic Front's website. In 1999, the www.angbayan.org website was set up. Since then, readers anywhere in the country and the world where internet services are available could get *AB* more quickly. Ka Roger Online followed in 2000, swiftly becoming the instrument for the rapid and widespread circulation of statements from Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. At this time, a number of regional revolutionary mass newspapers had also set up their own websites.

The *AB*, NDF, Ka Roger Online and other websites administered by various Party units disappeared for quite a while since the end of 2001 after the US tightened the screws



and unilaterally closed down the servers used by our websites on the pretext that they were linked to terrorism. The US Patriot Act, a repressive law enacted in reaction to the attacks on the US on September 11, 2001, was invoked to justify their closure.

It was in the middle of 2002 when the official website of the Party and the Philippine revolution was reopened. A group of Maoists based in the US helped by offering their server.

It was named the Philippine Revolution Web Central in July 2002 and since then has served as the central website of the Party and the Philippine revolution.

Repository of revolutionary documents

The PRWC serves as the repository of historic and important revolutionary documents. For example, one can find in the section "CPP Documents" the Party Constitution and the Program for a People's Democratic Revolution. In the section "NPA," one can find the history and the basic rules of the New People's Army.

Meanwhile, one can get the latest news, information, statements and clarifications on burning national and international developments in the sections "Ang Bayan" (where one can get the latest issues of *AB* as well as back issues), "Public Information," "NDF," and "Ka Roger Online." "Publications," features national, organizational and regional revolutionary publications. Poems, plays, songs, essays, short stories, illustrations, comics, posters and various artistic works are featured in the section "Kultura." In "Gallery of Heroes and Martyrs," we pay tribute to the heroism of comrades who have offered their lives for the

people.

From PRWC, one can cross over to the the National Democratic Front's newly established website (<http://ndf.wanadoo.nl>).

Likewise, links are available to Fortunato Camus Online, website of the regional Party organization in Northeastern Luzon, Rebolusyon (the theoretical organ of the CPP), Kabataang Makabayan and Filipino Artists for National Democracy.

The PRWC's dynamism shows the vigorous propaganda work of the entire Party and revolutionary movement. Its contents are contributed by comrades from various parts of the Party organization and the revolutionary movement.

Administration

The PRWC is administered full-time by a Party committee. Although without formal training, comrades in the committee collectively and continuously study the various computer and internet technologies to run and maintain the website effectively.

They constantly enhance their technical know-how and use of the necessary computer programs. They employ both Windows and Linux operating systems where the Apache web server runs. They also study the Perl and JavaScript language for the necessary computer programming. They likewise use various software such as Dreamweaver to compose the various webpages.

Through PRWC's regular and timely releases and other efforts to use the internet, the Party and the revolutionary movement are not far behind in the use of this relatively new medium for the Party and the revolution. PRWC mirrors the dynamism of the Party and the revolutionary movement that it leads. AB

The Bush regime can no longer deny the absence of WMD in Iraq

For the very first time, the Bush regime was forced to admit on January 30 that it had no evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) before the US attacked it in March 2003. The US deviously used as its scapegoat the lie about the threat posed to world peace by Iraq's WMD.

Prior to this came the resignation on January 24 of David Kay, chief consultant of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), a 1,200-strong team formed in July by the Bush government in the name of the "Coalition of the Willing" to try and find any evidence of the existence of large volumes of WMD in Iraq. The ISG was formed after the UN Weapons Inspection Team and many others had already established that there were no significant indications of WMD in Iraq.

Before he became ISG's chief consultant, Kay was Vice President of the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a private company involved in US "counter-terrorist" wars in other countries. It has a US\$650 million contract to service and support the US Army in Iraq and also has contracts for the manufacture of WMD-type US equipment such as mobile biological vans.

According to Kay, all that was found in Iraq were remains of

previous WMD that Iraq unilaterally destroyed and no longer revived after the first US attack in 1991. Small and insignificant laboratories were also found which may have been used then for biological weapons research.

A number of highly placed officials of the US Army and the Central Intelligence Agency have also admitted that they had long known that there were no large quantities of WMD in Iraq even before the US invasion. Paul O'Neill, Bush's former Secretary of Treasury also disclosed that the plan to invade Iraq was hatched even before the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US. He also claimed that at no time were weapons of mass destruction discussed in relation to the planned attack. O'Neill, who used to be a close friend of the Bush family, is now one of the Bush regime's main detractors, exposing its darkest secrets, its lack of intellectual depth and its brazen prevarications.

These events have exposed the hollowness of the Bush doctrine of "preemptive strike" against countries that US imperialism paints as threats to US national security.

These issues have brought to the fore the unbridled aggression of US imperialism under Bush's neo-conservative leadership. He will do everything and manufacture the most barefaced and most calculating lies to justify the aggressive, avaricious and oppressive expansion and maintenance of its superpower might.

Meanwhile, there is no stopping the opposition and fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The people's resistance to the occupation forces cannot be suppressed, whether through military "pacification", installing a puppet government and army, political deception or various forms of bribery, including the promise of sovereignty being peddled by the US. AB

Trimedia conference held in Mindanao

THE National Democratic Front-Mindanao (NDF-Mindanao) paid tribute to the print, radio and television media in a public gathering held in a guerrilla front on January 6. Over 50 media persons and a number of politicians attended the activity.

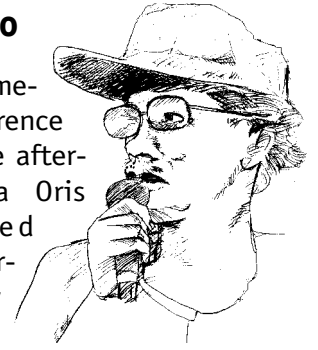
In a program held in the morning, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos hailed the important role played by media in society. The Red Limaong Platoon led the cultural presentations during the program.

A consultation took place in the afternoon between the revolutionary forces in the island and the invited media guests and politicians. At the request of the politicians, discussions revolved around the extension of the ceasefire declared by the NDFP. The NDFP-Mindanao rejected the ceasefire's extension in line with the NDFP national leadership's rejection.

In a media conference that same afternoon, Ka Oris discussed issues currently faced by the revolutionary movement.

Over 2,000 people gathered for the activities, including the masses in the guerrilla zones where the event was held. An NPA company participated in the activities while another provided security. The NDFP also ensured the smooth coordination between the media and their offices by, among others, providing cell-phones for their use.

A joint media conference with CPP national spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and CPDF spokesperson Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan was also held that same day in a guerrilla front in Mt. Province.



RFM workers strike

OVER 200 workers of the Republic Flour Mills (RFM) recently went on strike after negotiations between management and the union for the last two years of their collective bargaining agreement (CBA) failed.

RFM refused to give a just offer, proposing a mere P12 wage increase for the next two years compared to the P72 wage hike in the last CBA.

The workers assailed RFM's claims that it could ill afford to grant a wage increase because the company was losing money. In fact, RFM, the country's second largest food and beverage conglomerate, earned over P10 billion in 2001. Among RFM's products are White King (flour-based products), Selecta (ice cream), Swift (meat products), Little Caesar's (pizza), Sunkist (juice) and Selecta Moo (milk).

Peso collapses anew

THE peso once again sank to its lowest level, closing at P56.20 to the dollar on February 3. Economists blamed the fall on

coup threats and other electoral issues, even as the peso's plunge was merely symptomatic of an unstable and crisis-ridden

economy. The peso-dollar exchange is expected to succumb to the P60 = US\$1 level before the end of 2004.

In the face of all this, the Standard Chartered Bank, one of the foreign banks in the country, warned that the Philippines was possibly headed towards a financial crisis similar to that which befell Argentina in 2001.

The mass exodus of foreign capitalists from Argentina that year and the attendant capital flight led to a dollar shortage,

several bankruptcies and bank closures.

The SCB cited the 15% decline in the tax collection for 2003 and the regime's frenzied borrowing to offset the gargantuan budget deficit. It estimates that over 50% of the overall deficit was offset by borrowing. The government deficit came to P199.86 billion last year.

Even the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas concurs with the SCB's assessment of the country's financial state.

Forum in Mumbai strengthens struggle against imperialist war

Activists further strengthened the struggle against imperialist war and militarism in the world at the close of the five-day World Social Forum (WSF) in the city of Mumbai in western India on January 21.

The anti-globalization meeting began on January 16 when some 100,000 delegates gathered from various countries. After devoting a day to presenting and discussing the global US trade, multinationals and the foreign debt, WSF delegates discussed the movement against imperialist war and militarism beginning January 18. They particularly focused on wars led by the US government. The WSF coordinated and linked up movements in every nation and country against imperialist war and for peace.

Revolutionary government established in southern Nepal

The Magar people recently established a revolutionary government in southern Nepal under the leadership of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). According to their official website Krishnasen Sambad Samiti, over 75,000 people attended the founding ceremonies in Thawang, a village in the district of Rolpa. Red flags filled the mountains of Rolpa that day.

Before this, representatives from various parts of the region launched a convention in the village of Thawang. This village, where people's war began in 1996, is now the center of gravity of the Maoist revolutionary movement in Nepal.

The people have victoriously prevailed over intense military repression by the Nepali government and have firmly advanced the revolutionary struggle in Nepal.

50,000 strike in German metal factories

Metal production ground to a halt for two days in six German states when over 50,000 workers went on strike. They demanded a 4% increase in their wages and opposed plans by capitalists to lengthen their work hours without a corresponding increase in their wages.

The IG Metall union led the strike that began on January 29 in southwestern Baden-Wuerttemberg where 32,000 workers participated. Workers in five other states in Germany followed suit.

As of February 1, production was still affected in two companies manufacturing Daimler-Chrysler and Audi cars, at ZF which supplies auto parts, at Bosch, and in one of Siemens' energy units.

Prepare for and redouble propaganda efforts for the NPA's 35th anniversary

In preparation for the celebration of the upcoming 35th anniversary of the New People's Army, all units of the Party, NPA and revolutionary mass organizations are enjoined to redouble propaganda efforts hailing the NPA as a genuine people's army.

Let us launch various activities and projects to promote the theme "NPA: Genuine Army of the People." Let us focus on portraying NPA activities that show how it thoroughly serves and is deeply immersed among the masses and how it is nurtured and supported by them. Let us also show how the people have achieved gains through their organized efforts and the raising of their revolutionary consciousness.

Let us use various methods and forms of propaganda, including methods and forms with a wide circulation and reach, such as statements that can be distributed to radio stations and newspapers, as well as leaflets, posters, books and video documentaries, among others. We are issuing this call at this point so that the materials and equipment needed can be readied.